

servicemembers and veterans. To address this crisis, the bill establishes a Task Force on the Prevention of Suicide by Members of the Armed Forces to bring together experts from both within and outside of the military to assess current service suicide prevention programs and policies and to examine the risk factors that can lead to suicide. The Secretary of Defense is required to develop a plan to improve suicide prevention based upon the recommendations of the task force. I urge Secretary Gates to convene this task force immediately and for the task force to complete its work as quickly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, as is always the case in bills crafted by Chairman SKELTON, this bill also authorizes additional necessary funds for key systems designed to help protect our troops. Two programs are of particular note. For example, the bill authorizes \$1.7 billion to procure, sustain, transport, and field Mine Resistant Ambush Protected, MRAP, vehicles for our troops overseas. Additionally, the bill authorizes \$2.2 billion for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, JIEDDO, and urges that \$10 million be used for Marine Corps and Army development of specialized counter IED dog teams. The bill also requires that the Director of the JIEDDO to develop a science and technology investment strategy for countering the threat of IEDs.

Additionally, I'm pleased this bill requires the Defense Department to take additional steps to reduce its energy consumption, consistent with mission and operational requirements. The bill establishes the position of Director for Operational Energy Plans and Programs and creates senior operational energy officials within each service. It also authorizes \$90 million for energy conservation programs on military installations.

I regret that a number of provisions that were in the House version of the bill were not included in the bill before us, including provisions dealing with the use of private security contractors and detainee interrogation-related activities. I am especially disappointed that the current bill does not include the detainee videorecording provision I authored and that was included in the House version of this bill. I look forward to working with Chairman SKELTON in the next Congress to correct this deficiency.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill; I will vote for it, and I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

**RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE
TERRY EVERETT ON
THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS**

SPEECH OF

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend TERRY EVERETT, whom I have had the distinct pleasure of serving with in this House for nearly 2 decades. After 16 years of diligently representing the people of the second district of Alabama, he will be retiring when the 110th Congress adjourns. I want to take this opportunity to wish him well and thank him for his

friendship and dedication to the American people.

TERRY is a man who knows the meaning of hard work. His father was a sharecropper and worked on the railroad, instilling a strong work ethic with TERRY and his siblings at an early age. TERRY never forgot those lessons, and served his country with honor as an Air Force intelligence specialist in Europe before returning home to Dothan, Alabama, in 1959. He joined the staff of the Dothan Eagle as a beat reporter, and for 30 years climbed the corporate ladder with determination, working his way up to editor and publisher, and finally as the owner of his own newspaper chain. He has brought the same dedication and workhorse attitude to the House of Representatives.

In his service in the House, TERRY has devoted himself to ensuring that the United States remains safe and secure for our children and grandchildren from the growing threat of international terrorists and rogue states. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, he has led the way for the United States to be on the cutting edge of military technology by pressing for advances in our Missile Defense System and in space technology, which is vital not only to our security at home, but also for our brave soldiers serving on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. His efforts have helped keep our Nation safe and strong in a time when threats to our security are quickly changing and adapting.

Madam Speaker, it has been an honor to have served with TERRY EVERETT in this great body. I want to wish him and his family well as he embarks on the next chapter of his life. I know the people of Alabama, like me, are proud to know him.

**RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE
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THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS**

SPEECH OF

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding career of my friend, the Honorable ROBERT "BUD" CRAMER, for his service to the people of Alabama and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman CRAMER has represented the 5th Congressional District of the State of Alabama for the past 17 years ably and with distinction.

Born and raised in Huntsville, Alabama, BUD earned a bachelor's degree and a Juris Doctor from the University of Alabama. BUD is also a military veteran, where he served our country as an Army tank officer at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Of all of his many achievements, BUD's work on behalf of abused children is perhaps his greatest legacy. Before his election to Congress, BUD served for 10 years as Madison County district attorney. It was during this time that BUD founded the National Children's Advocacy Center. The Center provides complete services and support for abused children, a fundamentally different approach to these types of cases, and now serves as the

national model for over 600 programs in 50 States and the District of Columbia.

Following his election to Congress, BUD continued to be a leading voice for children. He authored the landmark law, the National Children's Advocacy Program Act, which provided funds to expand and enhance the children's advocacy program into new communities. He is also a member of the Advisory Board for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee and the powerful Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, BUD has been an ardent supporter of NASA and missile defense. With Redstone arsenal and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center both located in the 5th District, BUD has led the fight for many of NASA's programs including the international space station. In 2002, BUD was awarded the National Space Club's Von Braun Memorial Award for Space Exploration.

BUD has also overseen defense and national security intelligence issues as a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He was recently appointed to the newly created Select Intelligence Oversight Panel of the Appropriations Committee.

In Congress, BUD is perhaps most known for his independence. He is a founding member of the Blue Dogs, a coalition of more than 40 conservative House Democrats.

BUD has also worked hard to bring jobs to north Alabama. In fact, he has played a key role in bringing thousands of jobs to Alabama's 5th District, most notably, International Truck & Engine, Skyhook, Target, HiSan, West Teleservices, and Toyota as well as helping persuade Boeing to build a \$450 million rocket booster plant in Decatur in the 1990s. BUD was instrumental in the decision to restart Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Unit 1.

Make no mistake; his work has not gone unnoticed. He was named "one of America's best Congressmen," by Money Magazine.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a devoted leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family, his daughter, Hollan; his three grandchildren, Dylan, Mason, and Patricia; and his many colleagues and friends join me in commending his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the State of Alabama and the United States of America.

BUD will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with his family and his beloved constituents. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

**CONDEMNING SEXUAL VIOLENCE
IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO**

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1227. This resolution condemns sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and calls upon the United States Department of State and the international community to take immediate action to end this widespread crisis.